

THE  
CASSIE

OF THE UNFORTUNATE

MARTHA SOPHIA SWORDFEAGER.

19

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Alter habendus amor tibi restat, et altera conjux,  
Quamque iterum fallas, altera danda fides. —  
Te peto, quem merui, quem nobis ipse dedisti,  
Cum quo sum pariter facta parente parens.

OVID.

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It is not an open Enemy that hath done me this Dishonour; for then I could  
have borne it; — but it was even *Thou*, my Companion, my Guide! —

PSALMS.



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## P R E F A C E.

*THE principal View of the following Sheets is to draw the Attention of the Charitable to an unfortunate Lady, who is the Subject of them; and whatever Stigma they may chance to fix upon the Character of any other Person, it must be considered merely as a Consequence, and not the Motive, of this Appeal. The Reader, indeed, whose Breast is susceptible of any delicate Impressions, will find himself agitated by opposite Principles in the Course of his Perusal; and every interesting Circumstance, that must draw a Tear of Pity for the Lady's Distress, will at the same Time excite a generous Indignation against the Author of it:—That Gentleman however (without Self-Deception in a great Degree) can neither be surprised nor offended at the present Mode of Application in her Behalf;—he may perhaps with Reason disapprove, but cannot in Justice condemn, it; especially when he reflects upon what easy Terms he might not only have superseded the Necessity, but even prevented the Possibility, of this Address:—He was well acquainted with the Conditions, upon which the Suppression or Communication of it was suspended; and as he had an Option of the Alternative, he cannot have any Reason to complain. The small Advance that was ineffectually solicited (small indeed upon a comparative View either of his own Fortune, or the Lady's Distress) evidently shews that Inhumanity has a Rival-Passion in his Breast; a Passion, which seems to have*

*absorbed*

A 2



absorbed all Regard to Reputation, and prevailed over that Solitude, which every Man has to save Appearances; for had the least Spirit of Generosity been exerted upon the Occasion, the Character of one might have been spared, and the Misfortunes of the other been alleviated.

While we reflect upon the Miseries of the Sufferer, our Thoughts will naturally recur to the Source from whence they flow; — it is hardly possible to detach the Ideas; and, consequently, whatever Arguments are suggested in Favour of the Lady, they will proportionably operate to the Prejudice of her Deceiver: But as the Relief of her Necessities is the chief Object in View, it would be a strange Kind of Delicacy to suppress any Article, merely from a Motive of Tenderness to the Reputation of a Man, who appears so little to deserve it. An Apology however is necessary, if in the Course of the following Correspondence any Passages should, immediately or remotely, convey a Reflection upon a very respectable Character; some such unfavourable Insinuations may perhaps occur, but the Relation which he bears to the principal Agent renders it inconsistent with the Plan of this Address to omit them; and were they indeed founded upon Truth, his Reputation is so deservedly established, that they would only teach us not to expect Perfection in any human Character. —

It may not be improper to observe, that a Reflection upon the Case before us will display the Wisdom of the Legislature in Respect to the happy Tendency of the Marriage-Act; for had that Law been enacted previous to the Transactions here related, it would have prevented the effectual Operation of that Artifice, which has imposed upon unsuspecting Simplicity, and deprived the fair Sufferer of such authentic Credentials, as might have given her a legal as well as equitable

Title



*Title to a full Relief. — It is not indeed pretended, that the following Collection exhibits any positive Proof of Marriage; but still it abounds in every View with presumptive Arguments; the strongest Assurances of Affection and Support are repeatedly given on the one Side; and equal Tokens of Attachment and Faithfulness are evidently manifested on the other: — the Sequel however will shew that his Assurances were all written on the Sand; but that her Attachment and Faithfulness were immovable as a Rock: And as she is at this Time actually struggling under Difficulties, which she knows not how to bear; and threatened with others, which she knows not how to escape; it is humbly hoped, that the Humane and Benevolent will look upon her Case, as a proper Object of Attention, and contribute to the Removal of that Burthen, which he, on whom she depended, has refused to alleviate; — acting thereby in Opposition to the very Principles of common Justice, as well as Christian Charity; for admitting that his Engagement had not the Sanction of a formal Protestation at the Altar; yet, if Virtue, Honour, and Conscience, imply an Obligation; what can it be but his bounden Duty, “to LOVE and to  
“CHERISH her as long as they both shall live”! —*

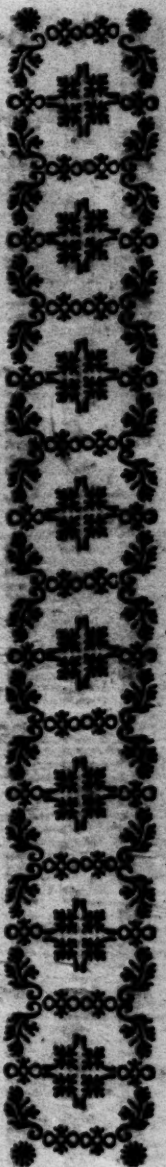
THE





Handwritten text in a cursive script, likely a letter or a page from a manuscript. The text is written in a dark ink and is somewhat faded. It appears to be a formal document, possibly a letter of introduction or a report. The handwriting is elegant and consistent throughout the page.





# C A S E

THE

OF THE UNFORTUNATE

MARTHA SOPHIA SWORDFEAGER.



MARTHA SOPHIA SWORDFEAGER, whose Character and Sufferings are represented in the following Sheets, is a natural Daughter of *Charles Earl of Orrey*.\*—Upon his Lordship's Death, her Mother,

Mrs. *Swordfeager*, (to whom he had left 10,000*l.*) retired into France with her Children : The elder Daughter was named *Clementina*, and accounted one of the most beautiful young Women of her Time : She married Captain *Morres*, a Gentleman of Character in the *French* Service ; and died within a Year and Half after her Marriage.—*Martha Sophia*, the other Daughter, was but very young at the Time of her Mother's Death, and being under the Care of her Brother-in-Law Capt. *Morres*, was sent

\* The avowed and well-known Connection, that subsisted between his Lordship and Mrs. *Swordfeager*, precludes all Doubt as to the Truth of this Article, notwithstanding she was at the Time a married Woman.



sent by him to a Nunnery at *Graveline*, from whence she afterwards went to a Convent at *Lisle* in *Flanders*. This Mode of Education gave her a religious Turn of Mind, which she has ever since retained. In 1749 she unfortunately became acquainted with Mrs. *Newton*, the Widow of an *English* Gentleman, who, soon after returning to *England*, prevailed on Miss *Swordseager* to follow her. Accordingly, in May, 1750, she came over and went to her Friend Mrs. *Newton*, who then lodged at *Kensington* for her Health. This Lady's Brother-in-Law, Mr. *Andrew Newton*, who was at that Time Apprentice to a Distiller in *Halborn*, used frequently to visit his Sister, and there commenced an Acquaintance with Miss *Swordseager*. In July following they removed from *Kensington* to *Essex*; and in August Mrs. *Newton* died: — Upon this, Miss *Swordseager* came to Town, intending, as soon as she had settled her Affairs, to return again to the Convent. She took Lodgings at one Mrs. *Gibson's*, in *King-Street*, *Golden-Square*, where Mr. *Andrew Newton*, made her several Visits: In one of these Visits he presumed to take some indecent Freedoms; upon which she wrote him a Letter of Reproof for his unwarrantable Behaviour to the Friend of his deceased Sister, and desired him to desist from his Visits, as they were not only *indifferent*, but *disagreeable*, to her. On that Occasion he wrote her the following Letter. — (N<sup>o</sup>. 1.) — I received in Bed my dearest Patty's Letter, but had no Need of that to exercise my Thoughts, as they were sufficiently engaged by what entirely employs them; notwithstanding my being as usual engaged, I should have done myself the Pleasure of saying, instead of writing this, if I had not been afraid of giving you fresh Cause of Complaint, in Spite of all the Resolutions I may (before I see you) make to the contrary; but I hope I have no Need to inform or assure you, that my own Honour is



*too nearly concerned in yours, to have the least Thought of any Abuse of it:— But what can I think, when you even tell me, that those very innocent Freedoms you indulge me with are not only indifferent, but disagreeable to you. I very sincerely assure you, my dearest Angel, that I never shall have a Choice in Regard to my Affections for you, but that I eternally shall be your ever constantly affectionate And<sup>r</sup>. Newton. — Miss Swortheager, whose Friendship for his Sister naturally extended itself to Mr. Newton, was not displeased at this Declaration of his Honor and Affection: Accordingly, from this Time, a Courtship went on between them, and he wrote many Letters expressive of the same honourable Intentions; in one of which, after taking Notice of his having been busy at Work on his dear Patty's Scissars, he concludes with saying, — (N<sup>o</sup>. II.) — *I believe the Rivet of your Scissars will not come undone, and hope that will not be the last indissoluble one that I shall do for you. —* As she now permitted him to visit her in the Character of a Lover, he was most explicit in his Declarations: He represented himself as being very near the End of his Time; and observed that he should then get Part of his Fortune from his Father; upon which he designed immediately to set up in Business for himself, and doubted not but, with the Assistance of her Fortune, he should be able to carry it to great Extent. He proposed to marry her as soon as he was out of his Apprenticeship, and only wished that it might be kept secret till he had settled Matters with his Father and elder Brother, as he knew they would be highly offended at his marrying a *Roman Catholic*. Her Fortune was reported to be 1500*l*. but, by Reason of its being in Trustees Hands, and in the foreign Funds, there were many Difficulties to be surmounted, before she could get the Possession of it. Having been apprised of these Matters by her Brother*

B

*Morres,*



Mores, she sent to Mr. Andrew Newton a Letter upon the Subject, and inclosed a true Account of her Fortune and its Situation. This drew from him an Answer which concluded with the following Words. — (N°. III.) — *And let me intreat you, my dearest Angel, as the greatest Proof you can give me of that Affection you have for me, to cease your Anxieties in Respect to your Fortune; for if ever I perceive any Thing more of it, I shall think that you imagine that mercenary Motives were more the Inducements of my Passion than real Affection. If, my dear Madam, you can be content with what is in the Power of my small Fortune to do for you, I shall be happy, and that is the greatest Motive of my Wishes to have it augmented. Good Night, dear Patty — send one Line by the Bearer to your ever affectionate And<sup>r</sup>. Newton. —* Such generous Behaviour merited, and met with, her most grateful Acknowledgements; and she had a fair Prospect of Happiness from so disinterested a Principle in the Man she loved: — It appears however by the following Letter, that something had occurred to intercept the pleasurable View, which their mutual Attachment had presented to her Imagination; at this he expresses the deepest Concern; and afterwards acquaints her with the Necessity of his making a Visit to his Father, who, he hoped, would advance a Sum of Money in Order to set him up in Business: These are his Words — (N°. IV.) — *Where there is an Affection so ardent, as I hope my dearest Sophia is convinc<sup>d</sup> mine is for her, it is no Wonder that the very Thoughts of the Object's Displeasure should cause the greatest Uneasiness; and notwithstanding I have the greatest Reliance on my dear Angel's Word, yet the Dread I should have of such a Thing, joined to a Sensibleness of never being able to deserve her Affections, gives me the utmost Anxieties at any seeming Uneasiness. I don't know whether I told you last Night, that the Doctor is*

*unable*



unable to be sufficiently my Friend, so that when I am informed how much Money I shall want, I must take a Journey to Litchfield, where I hope I shall be more successful: I should have wrote an Hour or two sooner, but have been obliged to send Cusack to the Carriers in the City. Pray, my dearest Patty, if there was any Thing gave you Uneasiness last Night, let me know it, if not confirm it so, and thereby dissipate the Fears of your eternally affectionate and devoted And<sup>r</sup>. Newton. — He promised, on his Return from Litchfield, immediately to marry her; she therefore got his Leave to write to her Friends abroad, and acquaint them that she was going to alter her Situation: — She wrote accordingly to Mr. Benyon, and desired him to direct her Answer to Mr. Andrew Newton. He set out for Litchfield on the 30th of November, 1750; and as she expected so soon to become his Wife, she sent by him a Present of Ribbands for his Sister, to whom he promised faithfully to make known his intended Marriage.

Mr. Benyon's Answer to Miss Swordsfeager's Letter is addressed to Mr. Newton, at Mr. Smar's, Distiller in Holborn, and, on the Fold, directed for Miss Swordsfeager: — The Contents mention her by the Name of Clark, under which Name she was put into the Convent by her Brother Morres. The Letter is dated, *Graveline, December 10, 1750*, in which he says, — (N<sup>o</sup>. V.) — *I received dear Miss Clark's Letter last Week with the agreeable News of an approaching Establishment to her Satisfaction. . . . Your Friend Mrs. Clifton was overjoy'd at the unexpected Information, and joins with me in all congratulatory Expressions suitable on such Occasions; I acquainted your Brother Morres with it, because you desired me; altho' according to my own Sentiments that Notice ought to come directly from yourself. . . . Mrs. Clifton sends all*



that's kind and affectionate; wishing once more all Happiness, I remain, dear Miss, your most obedient humble Servant, T. Benyon.—  
 Mr. Newton, upon his Arrival at Litchfield, wrote a very affectionate Letter (dated December 1, 1750,) wherein he has these Words. — (N°. VI.) — I got to Highgate in a little Time, and paid my Compliments to our young Ladys, and as I thought I had sufficient to serve for both Occasions, gave each of them one of the Ribbands you design'd for my Sisters, and then proceeded for St. Alban's. After this he mentions several disagreeable Circumstances in his Journey to Litchfield, and concludes thus; — They are all well, and my Father, as he before knew my Business, directly told me what he would do for me, which was to let me have three of the five hundred Pounds I wanted, besides what he before design'd; as he had a much better Opinion than I of Tom, he is not a little incens'd at his Behaviour to me on this Account. I have a great Deal more to say to my dearest Angel, but as I have had three Summonses from the old Gentleman, must defer it till next Post, and conclude with the Assurance of being eternally my dearest Patty's most affectionate and ever constantly loving And<sup>r</sup>. Newton. — This Letter was followed by another (dated Litchfield, December 3, 1750,) wherein he says, — (N°. VII.) — How pleasing was my dearest Sophia's kind Letter to Day, and what a Satisfaction must the Assurance of her Affection be to me, I leave her to judge by that tender Regard she must be well convinced I have for her; and whatever may be her Thoughts about my Uneasiness on her Absence, I believe they fall very short, as I could not have thought a Place, which on Account of my dear Sisters I used to be so fond of, could ever have been so indifferent; but am afraid my Return to Town will not be so soon as my impatient Desire would have it, as I have not yet got my Horse, but have ordered him home tomorrow dead or alive, and hope next Post to



for the Time of my Return. My Father, from a Positiveness very natural to him, is impossible to be persuaded to advance more than five hundred Pounds; but has referred me to Tom for the Remains of my Demand on him, with very positive Assurance that he will not deny me, notwithstanding what he has already told me; I don't know whether you are got the fatter for it, but all our Family every Day drink your Health in a Toast, which I always give of our Friends in London: I have a Summons twice repeated to Supper, so must conclude with the Service of the Messengers, and the Assurance of an inviolable Affection in my dear Patty's And<sup>r</sup>. Newton. ——— Mr. Newton said, it seems, but a very short Time at Leitchfield, for the Marriage was consummated on the 14th or 15th of December, 1750, (as she used to say whilst she *dared to speak*) at her Lodgings, in the Presence of Mrs. Gibson and her Niece, by a Person in a Clergyman's Habit, unknown to her, but introduced by Mr. Newton: Unfortunately, Mrs. Gibson and her Niece are both dead; though there are Persons still living, to whom at that Time they told it: — The Testimony however of Mrs. *Leader*, whose first Husband was *Cusack* above mentioned (in N<sup>o</sup>. IV.) is full to the Point, and of great Weight: the Account, as she gives it, is as follows: ———

“ That upwards of twenty Years ago they lived in *Holborn*,  
 “ next Door to Mr. *Lewis Smart*, a Distiller, to whom *Andrew*  
 “ *Newton* was then an Apprentice; — that the said *Andrew New-*  
 “ *ton* used frequently to employ her and her Husband *Cusack* in  
 “ carrying Letters and Messages; and, when he had said out  
 “ late in Company, used to come and lie at their House that he  
 “ might not disturb his said Master's Family; that, by Reason  
 “ thereof, the said *Andrew Newton* became very open and unre-

“ served.



“ served in his Conversation with her and her former Husband : ——— that she very well remembers the said *Andrew Newton* calling one Evening at their House, and her Husband not being at Home, he desired her to convey a Letter to Miss *Swordfeager*, who then lodged at Mrs. *Gibson's*, in *King-street, Golden-Square*, and at the same Time he opened the Letter, and shewed her a *Ring*, and put it into the Letter, and told her that the *Ring* so inclosed was to be their *Wedding-Ring*; and that they were to be married the next Day; and then desired her to take particular Care of the *Ring*, and to deliver it to Miss *Swordfeager herself*; — that she delivered the said Letter to Miss *Swordfeager* at her said Apartments, who opened it in her Presence, and shewed her the *Ring*, and told her also, that they were to be married the next Day; but she induced to believe, that the said *Andrew Newton* and Miss *Swordfeager* were not married on the next Day after the Delivery of the said Letter — because the said *Andrew Newton* complained, that he was prevented by being obliged to attend the *Still* all the Day, and he expressed great Uneasiness thereat; but she verily believes that they were married in a Day or two after, at the said Miss *Swordfeager's* Apartments in *King-street* aforesaid; and she is the more confirmed in her Belief of their said *Marriage*, because she well remembers the said *Andrew Newton* soon after gave her another Letter to carry, when he told her “ to enquire for Mrs. *Newton*, as they were then married”. ———

This Account, so positive and circumstantial, must satisfy the most scrupulous, and extort Conviction from Prejudice itself; nor can it be supposed, after this Evidence, that we are to look upon them, at the Period referred to, under any other Connection, than that of *Man and Wife*. — As it was agreed however between them,

that



that the Marriage should be kept secret, till he was set up in Business, it was thought proper that she should go over to *Graveline* for some Time; and accordingly he wrote a Letter to Mr. *Morres*, her Brother-in-Law, acquainting him therewith. She went over in *January*, 1751, and, while she was abroad, Mr. *Newton* wrote her the following Letters; every one of which expresses the strongest Assurance of unalterable Attachment, as well as an Intention to settle in Business, and take her Home, as soon as a convenient Opportunity should offer. — The first is dated *London*, 5 *February*, 1750-51. — (N. VIII.) — If my dearest *Patty* could imagine what *Anxieties* and *Uneasiness* I have been under, on Account of my not sooner bearing from the only Person that has employed my Thoughts since her Departure, she then would be better able to judge of the sincere Pleasure her two Letters, which I received both together yesterday, gave me; and I assure my dearest *Sophy*, it is impossible to express the just Regard and Value I have for that tender and sincere Affection I am thoroughly convinced you have for me; and most sincerely wish my Desert of it was answerable to the Sense I have of it: You was no sooner gone, but I directly took Boat for *Town*; but did not get Home till nine o'Clock, and in such a Mood as to render Bed the most necessary Place for me. I am very sorry I can't send you any Account in Regard to my settling, that will give you any Satisfaction, who are so much concerned in it; but my Prospects, I think, are worse and worse, and God knows how or what Course I am to take to get a Living; for the continual Nuisances that are permitted in our Business, and a Book that is lately published about them by *Justice Fielding*, has so exasperated every Body against the Trade, that we are under the greatest Fears of something being done by Parliament very detrimental to it, if they don't entirely suppress it. — I shall write to my Father to night for his Advice, but in the mean

Time.



Time think it improper to engage in any Shop, till I see what the Event will be: I have had the Offer of one Shop since your Departure; but they insist upon the Person who has the Shop to buy an Estate of old Houses of six hundred Pounds Value, of which the Shop is Part — but in a very scandalous mean Neighbourhood; so that I refused it.

— It is a very great Satisfaction to me that you are in a Place so much to your Liking, and have the additional Pleasure of your Brother's Company; and believe me, my dearest Creature, that till I have the Happiness of having you with me, there is Nothing will be so sensible an Alleviation of my Loss of you, as to have it in my Power to contribute to your Repose; and hope the next Time I write to send you better News. Adieu, my dearest Patty, and be assured I ever shall be your most sincerely devoted and affectionate And<sup>r</sup>. Newton.

— In the next, dated London, 16 February, 1750, after several affectionate Expressions, he proceeds to say, — (N<sup>o</sup>. IX.)

— I most sincerely wish France was more agreeable to my dearest Sophia, than she mentions it is; as I am afraid her Patience will be put to the Trial, before I can have the Happiness of her Company; for in whatever ludicrous Light she may look upon the Account I sent her of our Trade, indeed it is become very serious, and there is Nobody in the Trade but now wishes he was well out of it. I had a Letter from my Father last Night, who orders me to engage in Nothing, till I see what will be done by Parliament, as it is not doubted but Something will, tho' Nobody can tell what, nor will be able to tell these three Months: so you may imagine what an uneasy Situation I am in. I hope, my dearest Angel will endeavour to make herself as easy as possible, and firmly assure herself of my constant Affections, which will ever be invariable in her entirely devoted And<sup>r</sup>. Newton. —

In the next Letter, dated London, 26 February, 1750-51, he says, — (N<sup>o</sup>. X.) — I am afraid, my dearest Patty, before she



receives this, will again begin to think me guilty either of Forgetfulness or Negligence; but I assure her, whatever may be her Imaginations on that Subject, it is impossible I should be designedly guilty of either to one, for whom I have so great an Affection. . . . I am very sorry you should have such Reasons for making your Stay at Graveline so improper and disagreeable; and the more so, as it is so much out of my Power at present to make your Coming to England so agreeable to either of us, as I could wish. I assure you, my dearest Angel, that there is Nothing in this World can so much tend to my Happiness as your Affections; but while my Father lives, or till I can make myself entirely independent, it is impossible I can either be so happy, or give that mutual Happiness that I hope and don't doubt will be the Case afterwards. I have no Intention to go down to Litchfield, as I then should be quite out of the Way of knowing what pass, or taking any Opportunity that offered of settling; but shall stay with Mr. Smart, till I see what will be done. Pray my Compliments to your Brother, and hope before this he has rec'd the Watch. Good Night, my dearest Sophia; if there is any Thing in the World in my Power to do to make you more easy, you'll very much oblige by informing your ever constantly affectionate And<sup>r</sup>. Newton. — Her Brother Capt. Morres having been obliged to leave her, and join his Regiment, she grew very uneasy at staying at Graveline: According by his Advice (and Mr. Newton's Consent) she returned to England. Previous to her Departure from Graveline, she received a Letter from her Brother dated Bergues, 19th of March, 1751, wherein he approves the Plan of her Removal, and says — (N<sup>o</sup>. XI.) — *I think it will be more agreeable and proper you should be with, or at least near Mr. Newton; — and afterwards — I beg when you write to your Husband, you will assure him of my kind Servis, and believe me, my dear Mrs. Newton, your*

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loving



having Brother Nich<sup>i</sup>. Morres. — Soon after this, she set forward for England, and wrote a Letter to her Brother, which produced an Answer from him, directed to Mrs. Newton; wherein he says, among other Things, — (N<sup>o</sup>. XII.) — *I am glad to find by yours, that the Affair of the Distillers will not turn out disadvantageously for Mr. Newton; and ends as before — I am, my dear Mrs. Newton, &c. —* By the Substance, Form, and Direction, of Capt. Morres's Letters, it evidently appears, that he looked upon his Sister-in-law, as absolutely married to Mr. Newton, though he had before been informed, that, for prudential Reasons, it was for a Time to be concealed from the Family. — Soon after her Return to England, being in a very ill State of Health, and at the same Time breeding, she apprehended herself in great Danger; upon which she wrote the following testamentary Letter to Mr. Newton; and constantly declared, (while she had *Freedom of Speech*) that, in Order to prevent a Discovery of their Marriage, the said Letter was, at Mr. Newton's Desire signed by her Maiden-Name. It is as follows — (N<sup>o</sup>. XIII.)

— Having passed to the most Part of my Acquaintance in England under the Title of your Wife, it is to be presumed they will not think less so, after I have passed thro' the Valley of this Life. For which Reason, tho' not the only one, it is, why I desire you would take the Trouble of seeing performed the last Duties I shall require. It is not long ago, since I burnt a Will I had made, at a Time when my Fortune might have permitted me to leave some small Remembrances to my Friends: but by various Means I have found in that Respect the Case altered, and a Will become unnecessary to me. However I believe there will be more than sufficient for the last Expences. As to Debts you will not be troubled about them, as it is what I have hitherto strove to avoid. There is indeed an Account between Mr.

Saunders



Saunders and me, which I shall endeavour to settle, when he has Time; so that you may have no Difficulty in that Regard; and as to any Thing else, I can recollect none, but a few Commissions for me either by Madame Lequeux, or Miss Marshall, which, if I should not have an Opportunity, beg you will see discharged. There is an Account between Counsellor Murphey and me, in which I believe you will find him Debtor to me of forty Guineas: However it is amongst my Papers, which I desire you will look over, but never let them be seen. As to my Burial, I beg it may be decent, but quite private; my Coffin to be lined with Lead, and interred with my dear Sister and Aunt. As I hope, whenever it pleases the Almighty to call me out of this unhappy Life, I may obtain the Blessing of my Senses, so as to be assisted in my last Moments by a Roman Catholick Clergyman, I hope such a one will be permitted to officiate the last Offices over my Body, before I am carried to Church. As to all my Things in general, Wearing Apparel, &c. I leave to you, as likewise whatever Money may be over and above what the Charges will come to. My Watch was your Sister Newton's, who begged I would always keep it for her Sake, you would therefore oblige me if you would always keep it for the same Reason. The Picture to it of my dear Sister Morres I must beg you will return to my Brother, with a Desire from me, that you may have it, if any Accident happens to him. You know I expect some Family-Pictures, and other Things from Lady Clifton; I beg you would likewise accept of them, and always keep them for my Sake; and whenever you should be called to depart this Life, leave them to some Friend, so as never to have them sold. These, I think, are all the Favours I have to desire, only that you would present my Brother Morres and Mr. Saunders each with a Mourning-Ring. If any Thing more particular should occur to my Mind before that happy Moment, in which I shall be free from Trouble,



will let you know by Word of Mouth. And now my dearest dear Mr. Newton, as this is a Case we are all subject to, and that must soon or late happen to every Body; and which, by the declining Way in which I find myself, must necessarily expect it will soon be my Turn; — let me beg of you by the sincere Affection I have for you, and the tender Regard I am persuaded you have for me, that whenever I am called out of this Life, you will not let yourself be overcome by Grief; but remember it is the Duty of all good Christians to be resigned to the Will of God; and as we came separate into this World, so we are not to make our Exit together: And as you are but very young, I hope you have many Years to live, and that you will employ them for your Happiness in this Life, and the Benefit of your Soul in the next, for that is the End of our being here: And I confide in the Merit of my dear Saviour, that mine and every Body's may be a happy one towards Salvation. This is therefore my last Request to my dear Mr. Newton, that you will live and be happy, and remember that when you read this I shall be no more: and may you in the Course of Time find some amiable Companion for Life, in whose Power I hope it will be to make you more happy than I have, or ever could do; which joined to all the Blessings that can be bestowed on you, is the sincere Prayer of her, who when living was your most tenderly affectionate and obliged Martha Sophia Swordfeger. — This Letter was sealed up and directed to Mr. Newton to be opened immediately after her *Decease*; — how it came to be sooner opened, must be left to others to determine. In whatever View we examine this Affair, it will be found repugnant to our Ideas of Delicacy and Honor; upon Supposition of *Marriage*, it seems to be the greatest Breach of matrimonial Confidence, to break the Seal of so sacred a Deposit: — Upon Supposition of a *different Attachment*, it will perhaps be thought as dishonourable an Action, as can disgrace any Character;



to open such a testamentary Letter of a female Friend, after the Intimacy, which had subsisted between them, no longer continued. This Letter, however, as being subscribed *Martha Sophia Swordsfeager*, has been produced by Way of Proof that the Parties were not married: But this Proof is certainly insufficient; for her signing it by her *Maiden-Name* (exclusive of Mr. *Newton's* express Desire) may be accounted for upon a Principle of Tenderness and Affection, as by Means of such a Signature she might well intend to conceal a Fact, which, if discovered, she knew would be prejudicial to his Interest, and expose him to the Resentment of all his Family: And indeed, whoever reads the Contents without Prejudice, will easily see through the Disguise, and be satisfied, that a *dying Christian* would not have expressed herself in the Manner she has there done, if she were speaking of a criminal Cohabitation. — She recovered however, and went into Lodgings, (and Mr. *Newton* with her,) at Mr. *Pearse's*, in *East-Street, Red-Lion-Square*. In the same House lodged Mr. *Nathaniel Hill*, a Gentleman who at that Time professed Surgery; but has since retired upon a good Estate in *Northamptonshire*. This naturally occasioned an Intimacy between him and Mr. *Newton*; and in the Course of Conversation the latter frequently declared, that the Reason which induced him to keep their Marriage secret, was on Account of *his Wife's Religion*. She was delivered of a Son on the 12th or 13th of *November, 1751*, which, not being likely to live, was baptized the 14th of *November*, by the Name of *John*, as appears by the Register; and died, and was buried, the 17th of *November*. During the Time of her lying-in, he behaved with the greatest Tenderness to her, and neither the Man Midwife, the Nurse, the Apothecary, nor any of her Attendance, had the least Doubt of their being married.

This



This Testimony is given under Mr. *Hill's* own Hand, as will be seen in a subsequent Letter; and it is in Part confirmed by the Evidence of Mrs. *Leader*, who says she attended her the latter Part of her lying-in, as her Nurse, during which Time they acknowledged each other as *Man* and *Wife*; and their whole Behaviour seemed to be expressive of the greatest mutual Regard and Affection. Soon after this, such was the miserable State of their Finances, that Mr. *Newton* declined all Thoughts of setting up in the Distiller's Business, and directed his Views another Way. Accordingly, by the Interest of his Friends, he procured an Appointment, under the *East-India* Company, as a Country Factor or Trader; and, by Agreement, she was to retire into *Flanders*, (where she could live at less Expence than in *England*) till such Time as his Circumstances would enable him to receive her in *India*. — The Day before he was to depart, he was arrested by *Saunders* above-mentioned (N<sup>o</sup>. XIII.) for a Debt, partly contracted by her before Marriage, and partly by himself after they were married. In this Distress he sent for his Brother, Dr. *Newton*, and his Friend, Mr. *Downs*, to relieve him: On which Occasion (perhaps being apprehensive that his Brother would not assist him, if the Secret was disclosed,) he most solemnly *denied his Marriage*. It is probable his Brother *did* believe him: The Sequel will shew, that it is certain Mr. *Downs* did not. On her being informed by Mr. *Downs* the Day after Mr. *Newton* was gone, what Declaration he had made to the Doctor and himself, she was most outrageous, and with Difficulty could be dissuaded from immediately following him. — However, as Mr. *Newton* had repeatedly assured her that he had acquainted his Sisters, and they had promised him to keep their Marriage secret, till he was enabled to own it publicly, she was prevailed upon to acquiesce;



acquiesce ; and soon after went abroad to *Werrwick*, near *Lisle*, in *Flanders*. While she was there, *Mr. Dorons* frequently wrote to her ; and it is plain he thought her a *Married Woman*, by directing all his Letters *A Madame, Madame Newton, &c.* — The Originals of many of them, particularly the following, are still preserved. The first is dated, *London, 24th October, 1752* : In this he informs her, that *Mr. Newton* had never spoken a single Syllable to his Sisters upon the Subject of his Marriage ; though before his Journey to *Litchfield* he solemnly promised to acquaint them with it ; and afterwards declared to her, that he had communicated it ; — he then expatiates upon the Iniquity of such Deception, and thinks she has Reason to reveal the Secret of their Marriage, in Order to obviate any Misconstructions. — After expressing his Wishes for her better Health, his Words are these — (N°. XIV.) — *Whatever Stories Andrew told you of them* [that is, his Sisters] *I can assure you, they had not the least Knowledge of you, till the Dr. wrote to Molly after the Departure of the Colchester ; and can farther affirm, that Molly so far from thinking of you, fully intended coming to be his Housekeeper, when he was about taking the Shop at Moorgate ; she was so full of it, that she went to Burton on Purpose to take her Leave of my Sister ; as I know their Innocency, can't but be a good deal surpris'd at Mr. Newton's deceiving you in the Manner he did, in Regard to them ; and since he has used you thus, think you are quite at Liberty to clear yourself of what some People have blamed you for ; and I hope and doubt not but it is in your Power to do, and am sure no one can blame you for it, let your Promises have been never so strong . . . I am very glad you've heard of Mr. Newton's safe Arrival, and still hope that he'll live, thrive, and have Gratitude enough in him to endeavour his whole Life, to make you Amends for what I'm convinced you've suffered thro' him ;*  
and



and do sincerely wish you a speedy Change to this gloomy Scene, and am your obedient humble Servant, &c. William Downs. — The next Letter is dated, London, 4th September, 1753, and expresses his good Wishes for her Prosperity, — Viz. — (N°. XV.) — Dear Madam, It is with much Pleasure I seal the inclosed from Mr. Andrew Newton, which I have just rec'd from the Ship Admiral Vernon, and hope it contains great Comfort, and as true Satisfaction as can be wished for in a Letter. However great his and your Desires are of being together, must neither of you think of for some Time; but endeavour to be content in bearing yearly from each other, as he is yet a Stranger abroad, and not settled in Business sufficient to destroy any additional Expence, it would by no Means be prudent to think of such a Meeting yet a while. As the outward-bound Ships will be for departing about Christmas, please to let me have your Letters by that Time; if you would write two, would be more sure, and will send them by two different Ships . . . I hope by this Time you are much better in Health, and hope the inclosed will add thereto, and give you great Peace of Mind, which is the sincere Desire of your most humble Servant William Downs. — The following Letter breathes the warmest Effusions of Friendship, and is fraught with Concern for her distressful Situation; it contains likewise a Direction to Mr. Newton's Brother and Sisters, and advises her to make Application to them for Relief; — (N°. XVI.) — Dear Madam, February 1, 1754, Yours of the 15th of January, I have received with the Account inclosed, which I this Day presented to Mr. Speck, and am sorry to tell you his Answer was, that he had not a Shilling of Mr. Newton's in Hand . . . I am very sorry it is out of my Power to make your Situation in Life more comfortable, which if I could have done even with some Difficulty to myself, should not have given you Time to repeat your Situation, and can truly say



on your Account it gives me no small Concern. Since I rec'd your last, I've seen Dr. Newton, and again repeated the Harshness you suffered on his Brother's Account, but could not perceive any Bowels of Compassion in him. I wou'd advise you to try what Writing to him will do; if it should not succeed, you'l but be as you are; but if you do, beg you'l not mention that I advised you to it; as Andrew's Sisters likewise are acquainted with your Circumstances, think it would not be improper to give them a Line or two, if you meet with no Encouragement from the Dr. . . . I sincerely wish you better Health, and should have been very glad to have been the Author of better News, but as I really cannot, the least said is often best, and am your most humble Servant, W. DOWNS.—P. S. Dr. Newton, Grosvenor-Street, Miss Newton at Laichfield, Staffordshire. — In the next Letter, dated June 14, 1754, he expresses his Joy in having an Opportunity of remitting her a Letter with a Bill of Exchange from Mr. Newton; which he hopes will give Ease and Comfort to her Mind; it is as follows. — (N°. XVII.) — Dear Madam, yours of the 6th of March I received, which not being able to answer to your Satisfaction, and daily expecting a Ship from Fort St. David, was the Reason for my Silence: Last Week I returned Home from a Journey, when I found your Favour of the 18th of May: Since then have received a Letter from Mr. Andrew Newton, with the inclosed for you, which I take the first Opportunity of remitting you with Joy, and at the same Time a Bill of Exchange on Paris, by George Bryan for 28l. Sterling, which I doubt not but will be honoured; the Drawer is a Friend of mine, and says, if it will be more convenient to you, Mr. Vander-Cruise de la Motte will give you Cash immediately for it; by Mistake it is payable to Mary instead of Martha; but if you please to write M. Newton on the Backside of the Bill it will be satisfactory. — I am very glad to hear Andrew is well and content in

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his



his Station, th<sup>t</sup> he says it is not quite so well with him as he expected, yet doubts not of making a Fortune in Time; he expresses in full Terms his great Regard and Affection for you, and hopes to live to make you ample Satisfaction for past Injuries: The Bill he sent me is for 40*l*. only; 2*8* of which he desired me to remit you, which I do with much Pleasure, only wish it had been for a larger Sum; as I suppose it to be all it suited at that Time, doubt not of your making it go as far as can be, till he makes farther Remittances, which will be, I dare say, next Year. . . . I hope by this Time, the Season being fine, you are better in Health, and that the inclosed Letter will ease your Mind, which I shall be glad to hear; in the mean Time, believe me to be your most humble Servant W. Downe. — In another Letter (not dated) is intimated the tender Regard which Mr. Newton professes, and his Design of sending for her to India, as soon as his Circumstances will enable him to receive her: — The Words are these. — (N. XVIII.) — Dear Madam, I am favoured with yours of the 25<sup>th</sup> ult; and am sorry to find by it that your Health is not re-established; was in Hopes hearing from Mr. Newton (tho' not quite to your Satisfaction) wou'd by Degrees have worked that about: — Since yours I have rec'd a Letter from Fort St. David by the Dorrington just now arrived. . . . Tho' his to me is short; he says a good Deal about you, and assures me of the tender Regard he has for you; and that he never can be happy till he has you with him; but can't think of it at present. I am afraid the Troubles the Country is in makes their Trade the worse, and hinders him from getting on so fast as I could wish; but however let Time be as they will, hope a few Years will put him above Difficulties, and enable him to make your Life happy. Some Ships will depart in three Weeks, and if will please to forward your Letters, will take Care of them. . . . I am, dear Madam, with all due Respects, sincerely yours W. Downe.

The



The following Letter is dated 4th March, 1755. Herein he complains her deplorable Situation, advances 10*l.* for her Relief, and insinuates a severe Reflection upon a Person, whom he seems to have considered as her Husband's Brother. After some Apologies for his Silence, he proceeds to say, — (N°. XIX.) — I am extremely sorry to hear by your last of your repeated Uneasiness, and bad State of Health; and the more so, that your Circumstances are narrow, and in Want of Relief. I have therefore inclosed you as above a Bill for 10*l.* Sterling, drawn by the same Gentleman, and on the same House, as the other I sent you, and hope you'll find no Difficulty in getting the Money; please to sign M. Newton on the back Part of it, being made payable to your Order; and I hope Mr. Newton will remit it to me P. first Opportunity, and also a larger Sum for your Comfort. D. Newton called here about a Week ago, and seemed to compassionate your Sufferings; but would not advance a Shilling, I fear, if you was starving. — I am obliged to you for your Wishes to me of Health, &c. and wish you had as good a Share as I have, and hope the worst with you is past, and will soon find the Scale turn'd in your Favour. I hope this Sum, small as it is, will be sufficient till we hear from India, which I hope will not be long before, and am your most humble Servant, W. Downs. — His last Letter bears Date, 2 July, 1755; in which (according to his usual Strain of good Will towards her and Mr. Newton) he thus expresses himself — (N°. XX.) — Dear Madam, since my last, I am favoured with yours of the 6th of April, which I gladly take this Opportunity to answer, and inclose you a Letter from Mr. Newton, which I hope and doubt not but will give you more Satisfaction than any Subject I could have wrote about before: — He writes me, that he is at present 200 Miles from Madras, and not then so able to send or receive Letters as before; but hopes not to stay long there,



which I suppose he gives you a fuller Account of. He has not by this Ship made any Remittance, but says he will P<sup>r</sup>. next, which I hope he'l not omit doing on your Account; but if he should, I'll endeavour to make you a small Remittance, not doubting but you'l manage it with much Frugality, and make it last as long as possible for Andrew's Sake, who at this Time can't be supposed to have much to spare. I hope by this you have got the better of your Complaints; both in Mind and Person, and will tell me in your next, that you are so. There are other Ships expected from Madras next Month; by some of them I hope shall bear again, and do assure you (as I've before done) that there shall be no Delay in me, in Respect to any Thing I can forward to you, and am your most faithful humble Servant, W. Downs.

This Gentleman was Mr. Newton's most intimate Acquaintance, and, in his Absence, acted as his Agent; it cannot therefore be imagined that he was ignorant of so essential a Point, as his Friend's Marriage; and, as a Proof of his Opinion upon that Article, soon after his fair Correspondent returned from Flanders, he placed her, as Mr. Newton's Wife, to lodge and board at one Mr. Bailey's, in Rachel-Court, Fleet-Street; whom he expressly told, that her Husband then resided in *India*, and was Brother to Dr. Newton; and that he himself would be his Security for the Payment of her Board, &c. For the Truth of this Circumstance, Evidence upon Oath was ready to be given upon a former Occasion:— But exclusive hereof it appears from the whole of the above Letters, (which testify an Opinion of her Merit, and bear the Stamp of a sincere Regard for both Parties), that Mr. Downs thought them married, and expected that Mr. Newton would send for her as soon as he was in a Capacity to maintain her as his Wife: and this Presumption of their Marriage, together with the Testimony of her good

Conduct,



Conduct, intimated in the above Letters, ought to be particularly remarked; because in the Sequel it will appear, that Mr. Newton's Return, with an *ample Fortune*, has wonderfully operated upon Mr. Downs, and made as great an Alteration in his Judgement, as Absence had made in his *own Affection*. — In Order, however, to come nearer to the Point, Mr. Newton's own Letters, though not perhaps amounting to a legal Proof, will furnish sufficient Matter to convince the Understanding of unprejudiced Enquirers. From the Time of his going abroad there was a constant Correspondence between them as *Husband and Wife* for some Years: His first Letter is dated from Fort St. David's, 23d February, 1753, in which among other Thing he says, — (N. XXI.) — . . . Ob my dearest Patty, it is impossible for you to imagine one Million Part of the Uneasiness and Anxieties I have had, and still have, not only for my own Misfortunes, but your Sufferings; ~~which the innocently~~ I can't but think myself in some Measure the Cause of; and my dearest Creature's being with Child again, which was not our Case so very hard, would be the greatest Blessing that could happen to me, serves now only to make me more miserable: as I have had but too melancholy an Instance, how much you would want Comfort at such a Time, not to be under the greatest Apprehensions on that Account . . . I've not rec'd any Benefit from the Letters or Recommendation I brought with me; one Gentleman being returned to England; another gone as Supercargo to Manilla, and will not return yet for sometime; and a third who was Governor here, and to whom I had the greatest Dependence, dead; so that whatever Places of Profit I may in Time enjoy, I must expect to arrive at by Seniority, and not by the Interest of Friends; I may indeed look on the above as the greatest Misfortunes, as it will be a Hindrance to my having my dearest Patty with me for sometime; as upon the most moderate Calculation it

will



will cost at least four Times my present Income to live as any Lady's do . . . . I am afraid my dear Creature will think hard of me, but if she considers, will, I hope, do all in her Power to bear with it, as there is a Certainty, if I live, of being in such Circumstances as will enable me not only to pay my Debts, but to live in such a Manner, as I hope will not be disagreeable to her . . . I am but too sensible that what I have wrote will be far from giving my dearest Patty the Satisfaction or Comfort that I promised, or she has Reason to expect from my Love; but hope by her calmly considering my unhappy Situation, she will enable herself to bear up with her Misfortunes, as it is entirely owing to too cruel a Necessity, and not any Alteration or Diminution of that Regard and Affection I shall for ever have for her. — I have wrote to Mr. Downs to supply you with Cash in such a Manner, as I hope will not be in vain; notwithstanding I am already so much indebted to him; but if any unforeseen Accident should happen to prevent your receiving Supplies from that Quarter, if Mr. Morres will be so kind as to assist you, I shall ever acknowledge the Obligation, as well as indemnify him as soon as ever it is in my Power . . . . Let me intreat my dear Sophia as the greatest Instance of her Affection (and she tells me she will do any Thing for me) to bear up with our Misfortunes till that happy Time shall come, in which she shall again bless and be blessed in the longing Arms of her ever sincerely affectionate and unalterable, Andrew Newton. — Upon the Receipt of Mr. Down's Letter of the 24th of October, 1752, before stated, N<sup>o</sup>. XIV. she wrote a very strong Letter to Mr. Newton, upbraiding him for having denied his Marriage, which occasioned his Letter of the 26th of September, 1753, which is principally as follows — (N<sup>o</sup>. XXII.) — *What Answer can I return my dearest Sophia to such a Letter as that of hers of November last, or how shall I be able to paint or make her con-*



ceive that incessant Anguish of Mind I do and shall even labour under, and which even she (if sensible of what I endure only for one Minute) would think there needed not the dictating of such a Letter to augment : shall I never, my dearest Creature, be bless'd with one Line, but what is fill'd with such Reproaches, as give me more Pain to read or even think of, than it is possible to express . . . . There is but one Line that can give me the best Relief, and in that she very justly attributes my Behaviour to the wretched State of my Affairs ; wretched indeed was it, and more wretched was myself at the Time, or I should not have told the disagreeable Fib of our not being married to those I did, and thereby subjecting her to such Insults ; but can't my dearest Creature forgive me ? I am sure she would, if she knew how sincerely I repented it ; and as (notwithstanding there is so many Appearances against me) there never was or ever will be a more sincere or more constant Affection, than that I have for her ; so I hope as I never in the least doubted her real Regard for me, she will endeavour to bear up against our mutual Misfortunes : She likewise must be very sensible, that my Capacity to provide for her either according to her Merit or my Wishes, was the greatest, nay the only Allay to our Happiness, whilst I was with her ; and I am sorry the Case is not as yet at all altered for the better ; as I am much in Debt, and whatever I may soon do, have not as yet found the Advantage I thought I had Reason to expect ; and this is a Place infinitely more expensive than England, and where a Nearness of Fortune is neither so easy to be concealed, or in the married State to be endured : and after paying my Debts I think I am bound by all the Tyes of Honour and Gratitude (and if possible more by Inclination) to do every Thing in my Power to make that Life pass easy and agreeable that has been so much otherwise on my Account ; and grating indeed would it be to see one so dear to me, and who has suffered so much for me, destitute



of any Thing every one in that State of Life enjoys here: Let me then intreat you, my dearest Patty, not to entertain so bad an Opinion of me, as my Actions, whatever they may be in Appearance, could never be intentionally bad to one, whom I so dearly love; and be assured that you yourself can't more ardently wish for our Meeting than I do; and as Nothing upon Earth can ever give me Half the Satisfaction and Pleasure, you may depend, that as soon as ever my Affairs are in a Condition to make your Life here tolerably happy, I shall never neglect the first Opportunity of being so happy as your Charms will make me. — I hope then my dearest Creature will endeavour to bear this cruel Separation, and not suffer her Health to be impaired at the same Time she thinks too hard of one, who has the greatest Affection for her, and whose Life shall be a Study to make a Compensation for those Hardships she has endured for his Sake. I wrote you in February last, and was very sorry I could not then make any Remittances: I with this send a Bill of forty Pounds payable to Mr. Downs; out of which he will deduct the Charges he defrayed for me the Day of my Departure . . . . And now, my dearest dear Patty, let me intreat you by that tender Affection you have for me, not to give Way to Despondency, but endeavour to regain that Health you give me such a melancholy Account of being so much impaired; that I may still be in Hopes that you will bless the longing Arms of, my dearest Creature, your ever tender, affectionate, and constant And<sup>r</sup>. Newton. — The next Letter, dated Tanjour, 4 October, 1754, is as follows. — (N<sup>o</sup>. XXIII.) — The Pleasures my dearest Patty's Letters of December last gave me, was considerably lessened by hearing her bad State of Health continued; and not less so at the unkind (I won't say reproachful) Manner, in which she writes. Believe me, my dearest Creature, that as Nothing will ever alter or diminish my Affection to you, so I shall never omit any Opportunity that is in my Power, to do  
any



any Thing that will conduce to your Happiness; but must say, I think you ought rather to consider my Circumstances, and what you may expect from them, than what you have either been used to, or your Merit entitles you to. You are not ignorant of the disagreeable Situation I was in before my Coming to India. . . . And yet you not only expect, that I should make you large Remittances, but immediately have you come out to India, the Expences of which and Living here a few Months only, would be as much as I could get Money to discharge, and that too not my own: I am too well convinced of your Affection, not to know what you would suffer, to see me in a Jail; tho' you are so ill resigned to the only Means of avoiding it. With no small Inconvenience I remitted 40*l.* to Mr. Downs this Time twelvemonth, and by the Ship which sails from this Coast in January next I will remit the like, or if possible a larger Sum; and shall continue to send you such Supplies, as the utmost of my Abilities will permit, till such Times as I can have the Happiness of sending for you; which you may assure yourself will be as soon as ever I am in a Way of providing for you with any tolerable Degree of Comfort. . . . Whatever you may think, my dear, my greatest Desire of Riches, or any Thing that is valuable in this Life, would be to share them with you, and contribute to your Satisfaction; — do not then, my dearest Life, give Way to our cruel Destiny, and take from me the only Pleasure I have, that of receiving your Letters, by writing them in so unkind a Manner. . . . Adieu, my dearest Patty, remember Nothing can ever efface your Idea from my Heart; endeavour to bear up against our Misfortunes, and live to make happy him, who with the most tender Regard will ever remain, dear Patty, your most sincerely affectionate And<sup>r</sup>. Newton. — In the next, dated Fort St. David's, 24 October, 1756, he says, — (N<sup>o</sup>. XXIV.) — I have received my dear Patty's Letter, dated the 27th of January last,

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which



which grieves me to find, that every Thing I write with so different an Intention should be termed Reproaches; for I think she has had sufficient Proof of my Affection, to be convinced that it is from very different Motives; but as all I can write in that Respect, seems to have no Effect towards convincing her of it, I shall for the future say very little on that Subject: My last Letters no Doubt may appear still more so, and tho', my dear, I omit Repetitions of what I then wrote, and what you think so very hard, I expect if you have any Regard for me, that you will comply with it. I have now the greatest Reason to think it requisite, and you will perhaps be less surprised at it, than I have been at receiving a Letter from an Acquaintance of mine on Purpose to inform me, that you had demanded from Mr. Speck any Effects of mine that might be in his Hands: I still don't know how to give Credit to it, and the less so, as you have not made the least Mention of any such Thing in yours, and can't think you would take so very extraordinary a Step without my Permission, and much less without advising me of it. — By the last Ships I received Mr. Downs Money both to repay what he had advanced you, and for your future Supplies, tho' attended with the ill Convenience of paying eight p. Cent. a Year Interest. It gives me the greatest Concern to find I am so far sunk in your Opinion, as to be thought capable of making Excuses for not writing, when I might have done it; or of sending you such different Accounts from my real Situation. There is never but two Ships dispatched from this Coast in a Year, and those from China and other Parts of India are both too far to get Intelligence of the Time of their Sailing, and the Conveyance of Letters too precarious to be depended on; and you will find by the Date of both my last, that I had not even then left Tadjour, tho' I did very soon after: Did I ever give my dearest Patty Reason to judge so hardly of me, and is it not cruel, that added to the Despair of ever being

happy



happy with her, I am denied the least Comfort or Satisfaction from her Letters? and for what? — Because I can't do Impossibilities, and am unwilling to go to a Jail, or to be made incapable of sending her those Supplies I should wish the greatest Pleasure increase: The only Hope from Misery is, that Time may convince her with what Sincerity, I am my dearest Patty's most affectionate, tho' very unfortunate And<sup>r</sup>. Newton. — The last Letter, which he is supposed to have written to her from *India*, bears Date, Fort St. David's, 10th November, 1757, and is as follows, — (N<sup>o</sup>. XXV.) — Dear Patty, after such an Answer as yours of December last to what I had before wrote, and if possible the continual additional (I might add scurrilous) Reproaches, I by every Letter receive from you, I am determined this shall be the last I ever will return to any of that Kind; had you read that or any of my Letters with the last Particle of that Affection you formerly had for me, you would have shown more Compliance on the least Motive, than you have on the strongest I could then or can now urge; and am sorry to think you have so very little Deference to my Opinion or Ease of Mind. Little did I once think that my Patty's Letters could be disagreeable to me; but read over all you have sent me since my leaving England, and compare three Parts of every Individual of them with the other fourth; — by the first every Body must judge as well as yourself, that there is not a Man breathing can deserve so bad a Character, and no one but would doubt the Professions in the other Part, when dictated by the same Pen which had wrote the former. It is needless for me to say more than to refer you to the abovementioned, with which I expect your strict Compliance in every Particular, as a Test of that Affection you profess for him, who is and will be as you may please to have him, my dear Patty's ever affectionate And<sup>r</sup>. Newton. — This Letter is supposed to be the last he ever wrote to her, having before that Time be-



come acquainted with a *Portuguese* Lady at *Fort St. David's*, with whom he lived, and was thought by some to be married.

We cannot but observe, in all the preceding Letters, that *Mr. Newton* has uniformly omitted to subscribe himself *her Husband*; and, as some Persons may conclude from thence, that there subsisted no *matrimonial* Connection between them, it may not be improper to insert in this Place two Fragments, which are *still remaining*; wherein he expressly gives himself that Appellation under *his own Hand*: — The first is an Extract from a Letter, bearing Date *June 14*, (the Year not specified), and concluding thus — (N°. XXVI.) — *His Ingratitude to one so deserving; and I am sure I need not wish him a greater Punishment; adieu, my dearest Patty, be assured that I am and ever shall be your very affectionate Husband, Andrew Newton.* — The other Fragment is in these Words: — (N°. XXVII.) — *Pray my kind Love to her, and be assured, my dearest Patty, that I am your very loving Husband, Andrew Newton.* — Supposing, however, that these Extracts under *his own Hand* had not been preserved, still the negative Argument, founded upon the Omission of the Term *Husband*, would have but little Weight; for it is to be considered, that the Marriage was at all Events to be concealed, and that he was more apprehensive of his Father's and Brother's Displeasure from the Discovery of an *honourable Connection*, than from the Imputation of an *Affair of Gallantry*; the one he thought would be looked upon as a *venial Fault*, the other condemned as an *inexpiable Offence*. \* — Besides, were we to judge from Events, so well disciplined he seems to have been in the Science of Evasion and Defence, that an Omission of this Sort might be ascribed to a deep-laid

\* Tho' such might have been *Mr. Newton's* Apprehensions, it may fairly, however, be presumed that they were without any just Foundation. —



deep-laid Plan, adopted *ab Initio*, whereby he might design to avail himself hereafter of *this Reserve*, and take Shelter under it to protect him from the Laws: If such were his Views of Advantage over an artless unsuspecting Female, it is an Instance, wherein his own happy Genius anticipated a Mode of preparing future Mischief, similar to that which he might afterwards have collected from his Intercourse with the *Indians*; who are said to have the Art of insinuating Poison in such a Vehicle, and so tempered, as to suspend its Virulence for a Course of Years, and operate fatally at a distant Period.

As he had now discontinued his Correspondence with this unfortunate Woman, and failed moreover to remit her Money sufficient to furnish her with common Necessaries, her Distresses forced her to come to *England*: There she applied, but applied in vain, to Mr. *Newton's* Relations for Support, and could only get some small Sums from Mr. *Downs*. This obliged her to present a Memorial to the *East-India* Company, about the Year 1763; and perhaps the Company's Letters to him upon that Occasion might have hastened his Return to *England*: In Fact, he did return in 1765, and is said to have brought more than 30,000*l.* Home with him: He landed first in *Ireland*, where he was reported to have made his Addresses to a young Lady of Fortune and Reputation. This coming to the Notice of Mrs. *Newton*, (as Miss *Swordseager* then claimed to be), she wrote him a Letter; in which, after upbraiding him with his Behaviour, she desired he would remit her Money to pay her Debts, and give her a proper Settlement for Life; but receiving no Answer she wrote a second Letter which follows: — (N<sup>o</sup>. XXVIII.) — *Is it possible that neither I, nor any one in England is to hear from you? Have you so far left off all Honour, Friendship, &c. to behave in this Manner on your Return?*



Return? Your Cruelty to me is now of so ancient a Date, that it is no Wonder; but Mr. Downs, your Brother or Sisters might in this Length of Time have obtained an Answer: Reproaches are needless, since you are deaf to all Remonstrances; but if there is or can be any Gratitude or Kindness in the Midst of Cruelty, remember what I have suffered for you, and put an End to the Grief I already undergo: I should not have thought my last Letters to you in Ireland needed a Request; my Request was too just; and why do you not then put an End to my Sufferings? I have waited a long Time with Patience; but my Health, my Grief, and the earnest Desire I have of quitting the World, makes me the more earnest in a Conclusion: but why do I speak of a World I know little on but it's Misery? Since your Absence, Grief and Hope for your Welfare has been the entire Employ of my Thoughts; but whilst I write to the Winds, it is needless to express my Sufferings; but since it is out of my Power to reclaim you, and wish you to be what I once thought you was; at least for once be just, and let me not any longer linger under the cruel Torment of Distress, Grief and Affliction. As to your Marriage in Ireland, your Crime sooner or later will be your Punishment; and therefore I drop the Subject, and leave it to the eternal Judge; but if in the Retirement I propose to myself, my Prayers may be once more heard, as they have been for your Prosperity, may you be for ever blessed; but to obtain that Happiness, your Repentance must be great and sincere. Do not oblige me to take any other Method for Compliance; your Circumstances are more than sufficient for what I ask or what I want: Dispatch is all I am entreating you about: you must be sensible how much I have deserved a different Treatment; and with what Patience I bear your Cruelty, God alone is my Judge; and where we must both once appear at that Tribunal; and their I summons you to the Right I have of signing myself, what you are but too well convinced of, your ever affectionate Wife, M. NEWTON.—P.S. you see how far my Regards



for you is still great: If you will not send me your Orders, send them to Mr. Downs; *rebo*, I am sorry to say, is ashamed of your Behaviour: If I am neither to hear or see you, Adieu for ever till the last Day, to which Abode I hope to resign my Soul in Peace and everlasting Happiness! — may you be able to do the same. — This Letter (if ever Letter did) breathes a Spirit of Tenderness, Piety, and Renunciation; and though mere Curiosity should direct the Reader to it, he will not be able to withhold the Tribute of a sympathising Tear! How devoid then of every generous Sentiment must that Man be, to whom it was addressed, neither to vouchsafe an Answer, nor to send Relief! If any Glimmerings of virtuous Principle remain within him, surely Reflection will at length take Place, and for his *own* Sake, if not for *her's*, extort Compunction! Conscience will then demand his Attention to the *Author*, as well as *Nature*, of her Calamities; and though now he may boldly vaunt his Innocence with — “*Thou canst not say I did it*” — yet some lucid Interval may still occur to display the Crimson of his Guilt; and make him (under the Power of Self-Conviction) confess this peremptory Charge against him — “*Thou art the Man*”.

In the Beginning of *October*, 1765, Mr. Newton came to *England*, and then Mr. Downs, (having been properly instructed by him) sent the following Letter, addressed to Miss *Swordfeger*, (being the first Time he ever used her Maiden Name) and written in a Style inconsistent with the whole Tenor of his former Correspondence. — (N°. XXIX.) — Madam, *October* 10, 1765, It may not be amiss to inform you, that Mr. Newton arrived in *Town* last Night; and tho’ your Behaviour to me in many Points, and in particular the scurrilous Manner in which you have, I find,



find, wrote to him of me, might sufficiently excuse my concerning myself in your Betrayal; yet out of Regard to him, as well as Pity to you, I should be glad to promote the Request of your Letter, and that all Connection between you should cease; but I find him so irritated at the many Falsehoods and Untruths he says you are guilty of (and some of which give me Leave to say I am but too well acquainted with) that I can't think any Thing can be done, till, as he says, you make an honest and candid Confession of your not being married; and says he did not expect he should so long have continued the Dupe of your Falsehood, in my continuing to you any Allowance. Yourself will be the best Judge what Grounds or Support he has for such a Resolution; and if you think you ought to give Way to his Determination, let me know what your Expectations are, and in particular what your Debts amount to. If you are resolved to support the Title you claim of his Wife, the Affair I fancy must be determined by a stronger Authority than that of your Humble Servant, W<sup>m</sup>. Downs. — If we take a Review of Mr. Down's former Letters, we shall see the genuine, spontaneous Declarations of his Opinion upon the Subject of their Marriage; but Mr. Newton, it seems, since his Arrival in plentiful Circumstances, has, (by Means of a personal Conference); had the Address to remove the Film from Mr. Down's Eyes, and to make him look upon the Connection in a Point of View, that was better suited to his Friend's Inclination: Every Reader will however put his own Construction upon the above Letter; and that Construction, it is presumed, will not be unfavourable to the Lady who received it. — At this Time Mrs. Newton lodged at Mrs. Thomas's, in the Road to *Hampstead*, at whose Suit Mr. Newton was arrested for the Board and Lodging of his Wife. — Here however it may be observed, that a Treaty of Accommodation was carrying on from the Date of Mr. Down's Letter, as appears

from.



from the following Correspondence between Mr. *Mac Hugo Burke* and Mr. *Andrew Newton*; the latter of whom has thought proper to produce it; nor is it desired by the Lady's Well-Wishers to be concealed. The first Letter bears Date the 30th of *October*, 1765, it is signed, *I Mac Hugo Burke*; it brings Tidings of an approaching Accommodation, and is as follows: — (N°. XXX) —  
 Sir, I am glad to inform you, that an *Olive Branch* is agreed on, which will I hope contribute to the Satisfaction of all Parties; if you please I am to present Mr. Bredall to you tomorrow, Thursday, when Matters may be settled in a friendly and charitable Manner: As I had no Instructions from you, or any from the Lady in Question, hope that my Negotiation will not be deemed self-interested or partial: This I leave with the Porter at Count Hallang's, where if you should call at nine, do me the Favour of waiting 20 Minutes at my Lodgings, where I should be glad to communicate Circumstances, that the Shortness of Time does not permit me now to write. I have the Honour to be your most obedient Servant, *I Mac. Hugo Burke*. — P. S. Finding the Letter not called for, I made bold to open it and enclose the Lady's Letter to you, which Mrs. Bredall begged I would convey to you, adding that your declining to accept it from her Son hastened Proceedings, which I have Reason to think will be soon, till the Effect of a proposed friendly Interview takes Place, which for the Sake of Peace and the Credit of Parties I wish soon may be effected. Pray let me know by a Line this Evening the Hour I may meet you along with Mr. Bredall, in Order to bring Things to a happy Conclusion. My condescending to shew you the inclosed has not a little induced them to think, nay wishes for a friendly Composition; this will plead my Excuse for so doing. — Wednesday Morning, 11 o'Clock. — This produced the following Answer from Mr. *Newton*, dated 31 October, 1765.  
 — (N°. XXXI.) — Sir, I have received your Favour dated  
 Yesterday



Yesterday Morning, and am to beg your Pardon for not being exact to my Appointment, but going a little out of Town on Tuesday, and not returning Yesterday so soon as I expected must plead my Excuse. I called Yesterday both at your Lodgings and in Golden-Square, but was too late. Mr. Bredall was with me Yesterday so that the troubling you or him again is unnecessary previously to the Declaration I know I have a Right to expect from Miss Swordfeager; there is also the less Occasion for it from him, as I assured him he had no Right to expect Satisfaction but from her: In Regard to the Letter enclosed, as I before refused to receive it, so I now return it to you, never desiring to receive, and determined never to read or take Notice of any that is sent me by that Name or Title, and this she has known to be my Resolution for many Years past, and to which I shall strictly adhere. I am, Sir, your most obedient Servant, And<sup>r</sup>. Newton.

— Immediately upon the Receipt of the above Letter, Mr. Burke sends him some fresh Intelligence in these Words: — (N<sup>o</sup>. XXXII.) — Sir, 31 October, 1765, Your Favour received this Moment prevents me from waiting on you this Morning, in Order to communicate the Intelligence I received with Respect to Miss Swordfeager's Resolution of complying with the Intimation sent her by Mr. Downs, which I hope will speedily put an entire Stop to a very disagreeable Law-Suit: as I always endeavoured to make Peace, shall deem myself happy by contributing to bring Things to the Rule of Justice and Truth. My enclosing, Sir, the Letter was the Effect of the Request of Mrs. Bredall, whose Husband tells me that a Stop has been put to Mrs. Thomas's Proceedings: He has given me an Account of the Debts contracted by that Lady in England amounting to 180*l*. and 200 in Flanders: I am rejoiced to see the Matter on the Point of being determined agreeably, and shall be ready on all Occasions to convince you, that I am your most obedient humble Servant, I Mac Hugo

Burke.



Burke. — P. S. *I am to be deputed to you soon to finish all Matters.*  
 — In the next Letter from Mr. Newton, dated November 1, 1765, he descends to Particulars; but advances several Points, which, instead of *Truth*, have *Prejudice only* for their Foundation. These are his Words: — (N°. XXXIII.) — Sir, last Night I received your Favor of Yesterday Morning, and tho' I think myself much obliged to you, Miss Swordfeager is certainly a great deal more so; the sooner therefore and the more full and explicit she makes that Declaration (which must be prior to any other Step) the better, as it will prevent herself, you, me, and many others much Trouble that might otherwise ensue. After the Declarations I have verbally made to you, Mr. Burke, I would not have any Thing I either say or write, to be thought merely as upbraiding of her, but to the Clearance of my own Character, which to many has so much and so unjustly suffered by her Falshood and Deceit: The Declaration that I require therefore she must well know is but a small Act of Justice; for could I ever have imagined that her using my Name would have been the Means of deceiving any Person to their Prejudice, or contracting Debts of any Kind with any Person whatever, I never should have been silent on the Occasion; the first Instance I therefore knew of that, which was on the very Point of my going abroad, I did not hesitate to declare we were not married, and my Friends (and in particular, Mr. Downs) have done so ever since. — [“ What Credit should be given to a Man, who boldly makes this Assertion, when the whole Course of Mr. Downs's Correspondence, as above recited, absolutely proves the Reverse? Vid. N°. XVII, XVIII, XIX, XX.”] — By what Means and what Falshoods she has since carried on that Deceit to the Prejudice of I don't know how many, is what shocks me to think of. The Motives, Mr. Burke, of whatever I may do after the Declaration, I would not have mistaken; one is *Pity* for



a Person, for whom I never scrupled to declare I once had a very great Affection, and for the Alteration in which she must take a Respect of her own Conduct: Another is that I think myself much to blame with Regard to my Conduct with her, not to the Article of Marriage, for that she well knows was never the Case, or was ever intended by me, or had I ever the least Reason to think she expected it:—[“ If this be true, he must have interpreted all her Words “ and Actions in a Sense different from the usual Modes of Construction; nor does it indeed seem possible to reconcile it with the “ various Protestations of Honour, Fidelity, and Affection, which “ form the greatest Part of all his Letters.”]— But for Obligations I think myself under to her, that perhaps any other Person would think cancelled by her Conduct, or retaliated by my own. As to the Proceedings of Mrs. Thomas, they are equally of as little Concern to me, as those of Mrs. Bredal, or any other Person she has had any Connections with, or has deceived by false Insinuations and Assertions; and as I do not any Ways know how many or what People she has so abused, it may not be amiss now to declare, what I before told you verbally, that any Thing of that Kind will put an entire Stop to what I have now told you are my Intentions; so that she ought now to lay aside entirely any further Deceit with you, and be for the future very explicit and ingenuous; for as I only want the Truth and Nothing more, and that for my own Justification, and not any Ways to prejudice her, it is a Point I can by no Means give up, as the contrary will give much Trouble to you and every Person concerned, without determining any Thing. I am, Sir, your most obedient humble Servant, And<sup>r</sup>. Newton. — To this Mr. Burke sends the following Answer, and insinuates therein that the Progress of the Negotiation is retarded. — (N<sup>o</sup>. XXXIV.) — Sir, 5 November 1765, your Favor of Friday I proposed to answer sooner, but Mr. Bredall having told me that



it would be better not, till Miss Swordfeager's Compliance, which I find by that Gentleman is not to be expected, tho' he often told me since he saw you, that she was ready to do any Thing that you required: He told me that she was to write to me with an Apology for her Oddity to me, and enclose her then Resolution of Compliance; in vain I've waited from Friday and consequently waited on him: The Lady had been with him yesterday, and declared, as he said, that her Conscience will not allow her to disown a Marriage, which she will not find easy to prove: I've not seen her, and am not sorry for the Loss; but sincerely wish for a happy Conclusion, and be assured, Sir, that I am as sincerely your most obedient and most humble Servant, I Mac Hugo Burke. — P. S. They were at a Loss for the Form of a Declaration, which they wanted she should make on the Occasion; they think themselves wise, but till they act otherwise, I can't join with their Notions.

— It appears by the above Letter, that the Lady's Conscience would not permit her to make the Declaration required of her not being married, tho' Famine and a Jail stared her in the Face; nor would indeed her Creditors (such was their Humanity!) oblige her to make a Concession of that Sort, as Mr. Newton at that Time insisted upon the Declaration's being made on her Part, previous to any Obligation on *his own*, (Vid. N°. XXXI. and XXXIII.) and especially as they did not doubt but they should recover their several Demands upon him *by Law*. Accordingly Mrs. Thomas's Suit went on, and was to have been tried on Monday 17 February, 1766. On the 14th of that Month Mr. Andrew Newton thought proper to write the following Letter to Miss *Swordfeager*; which, being directed in her *Maiden-Name*, it seems she refused to receive: He has however been pleased to communicate a Copy of it himself; and as his Plan was to weaken the Credit of her Testimony, the Letter needs not any Comment; let it therefore speak for itself.

— (N°. XXXV.)



— (N°. XXXV.) — *As my not writing to you for so many Years you well know was occasioned by your persisting to make Use of my Name that you had no Sort of Right to, so your continuing that Falsity has made me once more take up my Pen to endeavour, if possible, to bring you to some Sense of Truth and Honesty; and tho' the continual Practice you have been in for so many Years of Falsehood and Deceit, with the large additional Strides you (or others for you) have lately taken, give me but little Hopes of Success; yet I am willing to make a Trial, and the rather as you say in several of your Letters you are condemned unheard, and that whatever may be the Consequences, you have nobody to blame but yourself; and if on this Occasion I mention Circumstances, or use Expressions that are not agreeable, attribute them to the Necessity of the Occasion, as I shall leave to your own Conscience to judge of the Truth of every Particular; for tho' you may deceive a few, and make them the Instruments of deceiving others; yet you and I know every Particular. I must own I was for a very long Time so prejudiced in your Favor, that I could not believe what was said and wrote against you: What opened my Eyes more than any Thing, and put it out of all Doubt, was the infamous Use you made of those Letters, that on a trivial Occasion I wrote you in my Sister in Law's Life-Time, and when you know I had no Connection with you; had the whole of them been read, they would of themselves have been a sufficient Explanation. Your Conduct in Regard to your Connections with and Attachment to Captain Cullen (previous to my Acquaintance with you) was more ingenious, as you was candid enough at least not to deny it; but young as I then was, and infatuated with our mutual Passion, could it be imagined, that I, knowing that Circumstance, and from other Hands as well as myself, should ever think of making such a Woman my Wife: Had it ever been in the least an Argument of Debate, you certainly had*  
*known*



known I had no such Intention. — So very far was it from such a Thing, that I declare I dont remember that my marrying you was ever the Subject of Debate or Conversation, or that there ever was the least Mention made of such a Thing, except on our once falling out, I told you what I would do were we married; — when you answered, No, thank God, it was not so bad as that. Could I ever have thought that my Silence on your using my Name would have been a Means of your deceiving and wronging People, I believe you know me too well to think I ever would have submitted to it. What an ungrateful Return then have you made to my Desire of preserving your Character, as you know that was my only Reason for it? By what I have seen of your Conduct since, I have the greatest Reason to think the whole Affair of my being arrested for your Debt to Saunders was premeditated Design and Baseness. My Eyes were not then sufficiently open to look upon it in any other Light than a Money Matter; tho' I declared then and most solemnly and truly that we were not married: Could I ever have suspected you could be guilty of so much Falsity and Baseness; — whatever might have been the Consequences I would then have put an End to it: Your asserting for Truth, and making the People connected with you believe, that I had not only taken your Fortune but Witch, Jewells and every Thing of that Kind, is a Falsity too absurd for me, even now to mention; but that you may not be at a Loss to judge of the Motives of what will be my future Conduct, there is but two Ways that I can any how account to myself for your Conduct — One is that by a continual Practice of Deceit and Falshood for fifteen Years you cannot now bring yourself to speak or act otherwise — The other (and that supported by the Practice of those connected with you) is, that whatever Wickedness and Villainy you are guilty of to-day, you can be absolved from to-morrow; how otherwise can you have acted the Part you have done, and which must (to

make



make it in any Respect answer your Purpose) still be supported by repeated and accumulated Perjuries: I would not have you imagine, that it is on Account of the Money, that I do not pay the Debts you owe — no — it is because I will not pay them as the Debts of my Wife: It was for this Reason and this only, that I refused to pay the Draft you made on me in India for 50*l.* which I should have thought a Trifle, had you drawn for it in a proper Manner; and this, you may depend upon it, I will strictly adhere to; it behoves you therefore before your Perjuries are further accumulated, seriously to consider what you are about; for I am most positively determined, you shall never have the least Assistance from me, till you have declared the Truth; and tho' it may be difficult to counteract such Baseness and Villainy, yet no Means shall be left untried of doing myself strict Justice; and whatever may be the Event, it must be preferable to being the voluntary Dupe of such Treachery, Falseness and Ingratitude. I am the much injured And<sup>r</sup>. Newton. — We must not be surprised at the Cruelty of the above Insinuations, when we reflect, that they have for their Foundation the *ipse dixit* of a Man, who was labouring to extricate himself from the Connection which subsisted between them; — a Connection which had obstructed his Views of a matrimonial Engagement with another Lady: — True to the Maxims of depraved Nature,\* he might wish to indulge a Spirit of Malevolence; and accordingly urged these railing Accusations, not only to palliate his Guilt, but to accumulate Injuries upon the Injured, and *poison* the Cup which he had before *imbittered*; — what but such a Spirit could suggest that cruel Reflection, which intimated a dishonourable Attachment to Captain Cullen? The Reader may be assured, that no Labour has been spared to pro-  
cure

\* *Proprium est humani generis, odisse quem laeseris.* — Tacitus.



cure Intelligence upon that Article; and the Result of the strictest Enquiry has proved it to be destitute of Truth for its Support; the Charge therefore being absolutely groundless, it is not the *Lady's* but the *Author's* Character, that will be stained by this Aspersion: And, indeed, most Parts of this *written*, but not *received*, Letter absolutely contradict the uniform Tenor of his Declarations in the preceding ones; which *Inconsistency*, added to his *Resentment*, will exhibit these fresh Imputations in a true Light, and ascertain the Weight and Credit which they deserve. But to! *expectata dies* *adveniat*! Monday, the 17th of February, came; the Court sat, the Cause was called, all Parties were present, when Mr. Bredall was asked by a Friend and Relation of Mr. *Andrew Newton's* what were the Terms he required; his Answer was — all Debts paid, and fifty Pounds a Year for Life: — The Agents on both Sides retired immediately to a Coffee-House, and the following Agreement was drawn up: — “Memorandum of an Agreement  
 “this Day made between *Andrew Newton*, of the Parish of Saint  
 “*George Bloomsbury*, in the County of *Middlesex*, Esquire, and  
 “*Martha Sophia Swardseager*, of the Parish of *Pancras*, in the  
 “County of *Middlesex*, aforesaid, single Woman, as follows, *Viz.*  
 “— Whereas the said *Andrew Newton*, and *Martha Sophia Sward-*  
 “*seager*, sometime about the Years 1749 and 1750 did cohabit  
 “and live together, and the said *Martha Sophia Swardseager* did  
 “pass as, and was reputed by several Persons, as, the Wife of  
 “the said *Andrew Newton*, *without being ever legally married to*  
 “*him*; and whereas, in the Beginning of the Year 1752, the  
 “said *Andrew Newton* did go to the *East-Indies*, and did not re-  
 “turn to *England* until sometime in the Month of *October*, 1765,  
 “and while he was absent did allow the said *Martha Sophia*  
 “*Swardseager* an Annuity of twenty Pounds *per Ann.* and the

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“ said



“ said *Martha Sophia Swordsfeager* did, during the Absence of the  
 “ said *Andrew Newton*, contract several Debts as his Wife, par-  
 “ ticularly one with *Mary Thomas* for Board and Lodging, &c,  
 “ to the Amount of seventy-nine Pounds or thereabouts, who  
 “ hath brought an Action in his Majesty’s Court of Common  
 “ Pleas at *Westminster* for the same; and also several other Debts  
 “ to the Amount of four hundred Pounds or thereabouts; and  
 “ whereas the said *Andrew Newton*, in Consideration of the for-  
 “ mer Regard for, and Connection with, the said *Martha Sophia*  
 “ *Swordsfeager*, has no other Objection to the Payment of such  
 “ Debts as have been contracted for her Support and Maintenance  
 “ during his Absence, over and above the said Allowance made  
 “ by him to her, than that she has taken upon her the Name of  
 “ *Newton*, and passed as *his Wife*, though in Fact was never  
 “ married according to the Laws of this Kingdom; she, the said  
 “ *Martha Sophia Swordsfeager*, doth thereby freely and voluntarily  
 “ declare that she never was married to the said *Andrew Newton*,  
 “ nor ought to have used his Name, or contracted Debts as his  
 “ *lawful Wife*; and the said *Andrew Newton* doth hereby declare  
 “ and agree, that for a Satisfaction of the Debt of the said *Mary*  
 “ *Thomas*, and other the Creditors of the said *Martha Sophia*  
 “ *Swordsfeager*, he, his Executors, Administrators, and Assigns,  
 “ shall and will pay the said Sum of seventy-nine Pounds, and  
 “ the Costs of the said Suit; and also shall and will, on or before  
 “ the first Day of *March* next, pay and satisfy all other Debts,  
 “ which she the said *Martha Sophia Swordsfeager* may have con-  
 “ tracted to this Day, provided the same do not exceed four hund-  
 “ red Pounds; and also shall and will, on or before the said first  
 “ Day of *March*, to the Satisfaction of the said *Martha Sophia*  
 “ *Swordsfeager*, for and during the Term of her natural Life, se-  
 “ cure



“ cure her a clear Annuity of 50*l.* to commence from the 24<sup>th</sup>  
 “ Day of *June* last, and payable to her, the said *Martha Sophia*  
 “ *Swordfeager*, quarterly, by equal quarterly Payments; she, the  
 “ said *Martha Sophia Swordfeager*, giving to the said *Andrew*  
 “ *Newton*, his Heirs, Executors, and Administrators, Security by  
 “ Bond from herself and Mr. *Francis Bredall*, of great *Maddox-*  
 “ *street, Hanover-Square*, Apothecary, that the said *Martha So-*  
 “ *phia Swordfeager*, her Executors, or Administrators, or any  
 “ other Person on her Behalf, or on her Account, shall not nor  
 “ will make any other Claims or Demands upon him the said  
 “ *Andrew Newton*, his Heirs, Executors, or Administrators,  
 “ upon any Account whatsoever: And that she, the said *Mar-*  
 “ *tha Sophia Swordfeager*, shall and will, upon such Security  
 “ being given at the Expence of the said *Andrew Newton*, im-  
 “ power her Proctor in the Spiritual Court to confess a Judge-  
 “ ment in the said Court, as the Truth is; that she, the said  
 “ *Martha Sophia Swordfeager*, is not the Wife of the said *An-*  
 “ *drew Newton*: He, the said *Andrew Newton*, hereby agree-  
 “ ing to pay all the Costs and Expences of the said *Martha So-*  
 “ *phia Swordfeager*, attending such her Proceeding in *Doctors-*  
 “ *Commons* in any wise heretofore. Dated the seventeenth Day  
 “ of *February*, 1766. *Andrew Newton*. (L. S.) *Martha So-*  
 “ *phia Swordfeager*. (L. S.) Sealed and delivered, (being first  
 “ duly stamped,) by the abovenamed *Martha Sophia Sword-*  
 “ *feager*, in the Presence of *Sam<sup>l</sup>. Cooper*, *George Parrott*.  
 “ Sealed and delivered by the within named *Andrew Newton*,  
 “ in the Presence of *Tho<sup>r</sup>. Partington* — *E. Boldero*.” — The  
 Lady, without Friends to consult, without Means to subsist,  
 without a Prospect of Relief, thus pressed by cruel Necessity,  
 and sold by her rapacious Creditors, reluctantly submitted; and



no sooner had she signed the Paper by her *Maiden Name*, than Conscience was alarmed, her Heart repented, and she swooned away. An Instrument likewise was executed, to empower her Proctor to confess a Judgement in the Spiritual Court, and such Judgement has been entered accordingly. — “*Quis talia fando, temperet a lachrymis?*” Steeled must the Bosom be against every tender Impression, that melts not at such a Tale as this! Who can, unmoved, behold a tender Female, thus harassed by complicated Distress, and struggling in an unequal Combat against the Forces of a strong Confederacy? — Artfully deprived of all *legal Evidence*, what more could she attempt than a *rational Mode of Conviction*? But *Reason alone*, she knew, would be ineffectually applied; and having therefore every Thing to apprehend from her reputed Husband, that Power and Artifice could effect; — every Thing from her merciless Creditors, that Avarice and Inhumanity could suggest; — she was reduced to the cruel Alternative, either of begging for a Morcel of Bread, or disavowing her Title to Mr. *Newton's Name*: Under the Difficulties of so pressing a Dilemma, how was she to act? Nature prevailed; she confirmed the Agreement, renounced her Marriage, and was made a *Sacrifice*.

The unfortunate *Martha Sophia Swordsfeager*, (for that is most certainly now her Name,) thus having closed the Scene, retired into *Flanders*, and empowered her Attorney in *England* to receive and remit her Annuity: But the Measure of her Distresses was not yet filled: The Attorney, who had received two half-yearly Payments, made no Remittance; and being obliged, in Consequence of this Disappointment, to contract fresh Debts abroad, she came back to *England*, to recover her Money; which, by the Assistance of a compassionate Gentleman, she indeed



deed effected; but the greatest Part of it was necessarily expended in this Expedition; and she returned back to *Flanders* with little more than the Satisfaction of having secured the regular Payment for the future. Upon this, finding her new Creditors extremely uneasy, and wishing, from a Principle of Conscience, to satisfy their Demands, she wrote several Letters to Mr. *Newton*, begging him to advance her £. 150 upon the Security of her annual Income. The Letters were all properly signed by the Name of *Swordfeger*, (for she had before given up her Title to that of *Newton*,) and as he never deigned to send an Answer, the Receipt of them probably would never have been known, if he had not *himself* produced them, merely for the Sake of shewing the Signature.

Providence may for a Time permit the virtuous and innocent to suffer under the Hands of the cruel Oppressor, but will never totally desert them: Accordingly, in *October*, 1770, a *Person of Rank* heard something of this Transaction: A *private Family Reason* first obliged him to make Enquiry about it; *Compassion* has since induced him to sift it to the Bottom. — In Pursuit of Intelligence upon this Subject, he collected, from different Hands, the above Letters, with many others; and, from a Motive of rescuing oppressed Innocence, he communicated the same, together with his own Suspicions, to a near Relation of Mr. *Newton*; this near Relation, wishing to have the Affair thoroughly canvassed, desired him to send for *Martha Sophia Swordfeger to England*: — Accordingly she has been over; but as her Mouth is closed by the Bonds which Mr. *Bredall* and she have entered into, he does not think himself at Liberty to disclose what she said upon the Occasion: This, however, he readily acknowledges,



knowledges, that *what she said* has not in any Degree lessened his  
 Compassion, or impaired his Zeal : And being informed that  
 Mr. Hill, a Gentleman of known Character and Fortune in  
 Northamptonshire, was acquainted with many of the Circum-  
 stances, he wrote to him upon the Subject, and received the fol-  
 lowing Answer. — (N<sup>o</sup>. XXXVI.) — *My Lord, I*  
*have this Moment received the Letter your Lordship did me the Ho-*  
*our to write ; and in Obedience to your Lordship's Desire beg*  
*Leave to inform you, that about the Time your Lordship mentions,*  
*I lodged in the same House with Mr. and Mrs. Newton, during*  
*which Time Mrs. Newton was delivered of a Child, which was*  
*baptized and buried by the Name of Newton, as well as I can re-*  
*collect. As Mr. Newton and myself lived (during our Abode in*  
*the same House) in great Intimacy, we had frequent Conversations*  
*upon the Subject of his Marriage ; in which he always acknow-*  
*ledged her to be his lawful Wife, and expressed the utmost Tenderness*  
*towards her ; and told me the Reasons, that induced him to keep his*  
*Marriage a Secret, were on Account of her Religion ; being per-*  
*suaded his Brother Dr. Newton would be very much offended at*  
*it ; and he was not then in a Situation to dishonour his Friends ; and*  
*proposed going to the East-Indies, in Hopes to raise a Fortune, that*  
*would enable him to acknowledge her publicly ; and it was also pro-*  
*posed that she should retire to Ypres in Flanders, and there remain*  
*during his Residence in the East-Indies, as she thought she could live*  
*there at a much less Expence than in England. About four or five*  
*Years since Mrs. Newton wrote to me upon this Subject ; informing*  
*me of her Husband's cruel Treatment in denying his Marriage ; de-*  
*siring my Attendance in London, as she should be obliged to apply*  
*to a Court for Justice : I then assured her of my Inclination to do her*  
*every Service in my Power, (which I am still ready to do ;)* ex-  
 pressed



pressed a Willingness to come to London sometime before her Cause came to be heard; that I might collect such Materials, as should render what I had to say upon the Occasion as satisfactory to the Court as possible. I recommended the Midwife and Apothecary; Dr. Parsons the Midwife is since dead, but I dare say, upon going to the Apothecary, and other Traders in the Neighbourhood, I could make it appear, that he acknowledg'd her to be his Wife. I desired her Attorney would write to me; and I told her my elder Brother had informed me, it was but usual to expect my Expences during my Attendance, as I must have taken a Journey to London on Purpose; but as I heard Nothing further, I thought the Difference was adjusted between them. I am sorry to hear of Mrs. Newton's indigent Circumstances; which I did not know at the Time she wrote to me. — It is impossible, my Lord, to recollect every Circumstance at this Distance of Time; and if I could, they would greatly exceed the Bounds of a Letter. Mrs. Newton's Conduct was so exemplary the short Time I was acquainted with her, I little thought I should ever be called upon concerning her Marriage: If what I have said can any Ways contribute to your Lordship's Satisfaction, or be of any Service to Mrs. Newton, it will give me a real Pleasure. I shall be in London in March or April; don't know at present where I shall lodge, but my elder Brother George Hill always knows where I am to be found. If in the mean Time I can be of any Service, I shall always be ready to obey your Lordship's Commands. I am, my Lord, with the most perfect Esteem and Respect, your Lordship's most obedient and humble Servant, Nathaniel Hill. Newton, 6 Dec. 1770. — The same Zeal, which prompted his Lordship to pursue his Enquiries upon this Subject, would not suffer him to rest satisfied, till all Difficulties, that opposed Conviction, were removed: Accordingly, upon Information that Mr. New-



ton denied his being acquainted with Mr. Hill, he wrote a second Letter, which produced the following Answer. — (N. XXXVII.) — My Lord, I have received the Letter of the 10th. instant your Lordship did me the Honour to write, and am greatly surprised Mr. Newton should deny his ever being acquainted with me; I apprehend by that he denies he ever lodged at Mrs. Pearce's in East-Street: I can produce sufficient Testimony of my lodging there before and after he did for a considerable Time. I was at that Time acquainted with most of the Apothecaries in the Neighbourhood, and think (as well as I can recollect) Mr. Peck in Red-Lion-Street attended Mrs. Newton, and make no Doubt it will appear by his Books Mr. Newton had Medicines from thence: Mr. Peck has retired from Business, but his Son continues it, who, I dare say, will recollect I lodged at Mrs. Pearce's at that Time; but cannot pretend to say Mr. Peck knew any Thing of my Acquaintance with Mr. Newton. — As I think East-Street is in the Parish of St. George's, Queen-Square, I suppose the Child is registered there; and I think it was buried in the New-Burying Ground behind the Foundling-Hospital, and that one Sherman an Upholder in East-Street was employed on that Occasion; but of these Things I cannot be absolutely certain. As to who married them, when, and where they were married, I am entirely ignorant of: There was one Mrs. Bourk, \* who was very much with Mrs. Newton; but who she was, or from whence she came, I know not: I knew nothing of Mr. and Mrs. Newton, till they came into East-Street; they were there but a few Months; he went away some little Time before her. I went with her to the Tower, when she was to embark for Flanders; since which Time I have never seen either of them. If, by your Lordship's kind Mediation, this Matter should not be settled before I come

\* Mrs. Bourk was a Mantua-maker, and has long since left this Kingdom.



to Town, I shall be very ready to wait upon your Lordship, to give you every Satisfaction in my Power; nor shall I have any Objection to meet Mr. Newton; as I think (if he is not greatly altered) I should know him again; and beg Leave to assure your Lordship, I am, with the most perfect Esteem and Respect, your Lordship's most obedient and very humble Servant, Nathaniel Hill. — Newton, 15th December 1770. —

His Lordship, still anxious to investigate the Truth, and determined to support the Cause of Innocence, wrote likewise to Colonel Morres, and the Answer which he received is as follows: — (N<sup>o</sup>. XXXVIII.) — My Lord, I am honoured with your Lordship's Letter of the 6th requiring to be informed of what I know of Mr. Andrew Newton's Marriage with Mrs. Swordseager, my first Wife's Sister; it being so many Years since I have seen that Lady, or had any Connection with her Affairs, makes it impossible but to omit several Particulars, which my Connection with her gave me Knowledge of. After my Wife's Death in 1742, her Sister not being of an Age to act for herself; I thought it her Advantage to have her removed out of the Hands of those she was with, which would have been her Ruin, until she were of an Age to act for herself. As I then had a Relation, a Sister to Sir Robert Clifton, a Nun at Graveline, and a Knowledge of Mr. Beynon that was Chaplain to that House, being an honest Man, had her sent there. As the Regiment had been soon after ordered to Germany, I left a limited Order with a Friend, that she should be furnished all Necessaries. After some Years it was thought she would be cheaper and better at Lille, she removed to a Convent there; where she made an Acquaintance with a Widow Newton, who I see in 1749 being then quartered there: Shortly after the Regiment being ordered to Brest, Mrs. Swordseager wrote to me, that she was going to

H  
England



England with the Widow Newton, whose Friends would put her in the Way of being paid her Fortune; and sometime after she wrote to me from London, that she was married to a Mr. Newton, a Brother or Cousen of the Lady she went with. I cannot recollect which. When the Regiment returned to Flanders, Mr. Newton wrote me, as his Marriage was a Secret to his Family, and as his Wife being of a different Religion, he had Measures to take with them for their mutual Good, before it should be made known; especially to his Brother, that was a Clergyman; and from who he had great Expectations, and a considerable Sum to set up in Business; until composed, it would be of the greatest Consequence, if his Brother knew of his Marriage; therefore his Wife and he had agreed that she should pass sometime at Graveline, and required I would let him know if I wanted any Commissions from London, and that she would bring them me: Accordingly I wrote for a Gold Watch, which he sent me, and for which he would receive no Payment. When Mrs. Newton arrived at Graveline, I was to see her, where she paid me what Money I had caused to be expended for her. Sometime after I returned to see her, and seen several Letters wrote from Mr. Newton to her, and to Mr. Benyon, in all subscribing himself her Husband: One struck me so much, that I recollect there was Mention of an Act being past to prevent the distilling of spirituous Liquors; which made it not a convenient Time for his setting up that Business; and as far as I recollect, it was in another Letter to her, he says, his Friends had procured for him a Place of Supercargo or Factor to be settled at Madras; where he would remain no longer, than would be requisite to acquire a Sufficiency to make them both happy—or Words to that Purpose: Since when as I have frequently been employed out of the Kingdom, I had but little Correspondence with Mrs. Newton; it is sometime since she wrote me, that being reduced to such Straits for the Want of common Necessaries,



Necessaries, that to be relieved from the greatest Distress, she had consented to a Proposal made her, to renounce her Marriage for a certain Allowance: Since when I had heard nothing of her, until I received your Lordship's Letter. There is a Councillor Murphy, a Gentleman of Honour and Probity, who I had known in 1742, and I believe, it was at my Consideration, had been of Service, and disinterestedly helped her to the Recovery of her Fortune. Perhaps he can give some Insight in Regard of Mr. Newton's Marriage. I never knew or heard any Thing of her, but would be to the Advantage of a Person of Merit: I never see him, nor know more of him, than what I here mention; which if he is capable of contradicting, he must be void of all Honour and Honesty. — The Unfortunate under Distress and Oppression would be too happy, if there were amongst the People of Rank and Fortune, one in a hundred endowed with your Lordship's noble and generous Sentiments, in procuring Justice to the Distressed, which must draw Respect from every one. — I am with distinguished Sentiments of Respect, my Lord, your Lordship's most humble and obedient Servant, Nich<sup>s</sup>. Morres. Amboize, 16 December, 1770.

This Letter from Colonel Morres, and the preceding ones from Mr. Hill, are plain, positive, and satisfactory; they carry an Air of ingenuous Simplicity, and Nothing but Prejudice can prevent Conviction: — Upon this Ground his Lordship was willing to rest, and having thus acquired sufficient Information, wrote to Mr. Furlong, at Lisle, from whom he received the following Answer, which will likewise explain the Purport of his Letter — (N<sup>o</sup>. XXXIX.) — My Lord, Lille, Xber 27, 1770. I am honoured with your Favor without Date; I shall cheerfully comply with your Lordship's Request, by bringing Mrs. Newton's Creditors to



the most reasonable Terms I can; I have not an exact List of her Creditors; but know of some who would probably give her Trouble at her Return, if not satisfied, for which Reason I have drawn upon your Lordship this Day for the 5*l*. you mention, to the Order of Mr. A. I. Roelans at 15 Days after Date, which shall distribute among the more needful and dangerous of her Creditors, according to your Lordship's Direction. Happy for that great Sufferer, that your Lordship was pleased to grant her your Protection. It was, doubtless, a most special Turn of Providence, that brought your Lordship acquainted with her deplorable Situation, at a Time she was without a Morsel of Bread, without Money, without Credit, without Friends, that could be of much Service to her. I bless and praise the Goodness of Providence, and admire your Lordship's noble, generous, disinterested Behaviour towards her; I should ever rejoice to be able to second so noble, so charitable a Soul in relieving the Injured and Oppressed. I wish your Lordship many happy Years, and remain, with all Respect and Esteem, my Lord, your Lordship's most obedient humble Servant, P. Furlong.

In the foregoing Narrative, not a single Article is misrepresented to disguise the Truth, or prejudice the Reader: The Arguments urged to *invalidate*, as well as those to *support*, the Marriage, are offered to the Consideration of the Impartial; Nothing on either Side is "extenuated, nor aught set down in Malice". — Miss Swordesteger's formal *Renunciation*, and Mr. Newton's positive *Disavowal*, are fairly stated; these *abstractedly* considered, and detached from every other Idea, would almost infer a *Necessity* of believing, that she never was intitled to the Name of *Newton*; but if we view them connected with the respective Situation of the Parties, and the probable Motives of their Conduct, a different Light is thrown upon them; and



*" If Imputation and strong Circumstances,*

*" Which lead directly to the Door of Truth,*

*" Will give us Satisfaction, we might have it."*

SHAKESPEAR.

It is acknowledged indeed (as Mr. Burke observes with an Air of Triumph in N°. XXXIV.) that " it will be found a difficult Matter to *prove* the Marriage"; but the Want of Proof is by no Means a sufficient Reason to *deny* the Fact; for at the Time in Question, \* a fertile Genius, upon finding *Innocence impregnable*, might easily have devised a Plan for immediate Gratification and future Security, by rendering the *Onus probandi* too difficult a Task, for a poor, deserted, friendless, Woman to undertake! And it is well known, that the Want of *legal Proof*, or of the Means to pursue it, will defeat any Cause, though it be ever so strictly founded in Justice, and "*bear no Hinge or Loop to hang a Doubt on*";—— To this may be ascribed her submitting to have Judgement confessed in the spiritual Court; an Act, not perhaps to be justified upon *rigid Principles*; but such however as Prudence might dictate, and Candor would forgive; for, after having signed the Instrument, she might reasonably have applied these Words of *Romeo's Apothecary*—— "*My Poverty, but not my Will, consented*".

But should not at last her Marriage be fully established to the Conviction of every Reader, there is no one, however, but will acknowledge, and lament, her Sufferings: The Disappointments she has experienced have been great, and her Distresses singular; and even granting, that she never was the *Wife of Mr. Newton*;

yet

\* This was previous to the Act for preventing clandestine Marriages.



yet still, for the Credit of Humanity, let her be looked upon as an *Object of Compassion*: — In this View she is recommended to the Notice of the Generous and Candid; and her Merit, it is presumed, will justify their Attention: For though it is impeached by *Mr. Newton*; yet it is impeached by *Mr. Newton only*: His positive Charges against her are indeed severe, and his oblique Insinuations still severer; but coming from an Enemy's Quarter, and dictated (as they seem to be) by a Spirit of Resentment, they are, like base Metal, to pass for no Value; and weigh but as a Feather in the Balance, against the concurrent, unbiassed, and ample, Testimony of *Colonel Morres*, *Mr. Hill*, *Mr. Furlong*, and even *Mr. Dawns himself*, while he was supposed to speak the genuine Sentiments of his Heart, and was not infected by the Prejudices of his Friend. Vid. N°. from XIV. to XX.

That her Benefactors may not be ignorant of the Mode, in which their Contributions are to be applied, it is thought proper to observe, that the intended Plan is to raise a sufficient Fund, not only to extricate her from present Difficulties, but to make a comfortable Provision for the Remainder of her Days: — This is the Plan intended; and her Advocates will not pay so ill a Compliment to human Nature, as to suppose a Failure in the Execution of it: They esteem themselves happy upon this Occasion of applying with so fair a Prospect of Success; while others are furnished hereby with an Opportunity of enjoying a *more exquisite Delight*; for though it is a Comfort to a liberal Spirit to be the *Instrument* of providing for a proper Object, yet to make that Provision, is *beyond a Comfort*, it is a *Triumph* to the Heart; and how high soever we may rate the *Pleasure of recommending Virtue* in Distress, still it must yield to the *Luxury of relieving it*.

T H E E N D.





# E R R A T A.

- P. 7. L. 3. After *is*, read *reputed to be*.  
 11. 12. After *divis*, read *bi* instead of *bar*.  
 17. 25. *Received* instead of *received*.  
 21. 16. *Mrs.* instead of *Mr.*  
 40. 26. After *Newton*, read (*as she was reputed to be*).  
 52. 7. *Impression* instead of *Impression*.



## P O S T S C R I P T.

SINCE the foregoing Sheets were printed off, the following Letter has been received by Mr. *Aldus*, one of the Attendants on the noble *Lord*, who has so generously exerted himself in Vindication of the injured Lady: It is impossible to read it, without a Spirit of Indignation rising in the Breast against the Author of the cruel Charge which occasioned it; and, should he condescend to peruse it, he may, with Reason, first apply to himself these Words of *Marzial*——

*Vero verius, quid fit, audi,  
 Verum non libenter audis.\**

The Letter is as follows: —— *Sir, a Report having lately reached me, which astonished me beyond Expression, that Mrs. Newton's Virtue was brought in Question upon my Account; this Aspersion is as malicious as it is false, and calculated no Doubt for some vile Purpose; for I solemnly declare and protest, that I believe Mrs. Newton of strict Virtue and unsullied Reputation, and never heard the Modesty of her Conduct or Prudence doubted of or objected to before;*

*nor*

\* 'Tis of all Truths a Truth most clear,  
 That Truth thou dost not chuse to hear.



# POSTSCRIPT.

can I conceive, how any Person could have the barefaced Impudence to attempt citing me on such an Occasion. — I am, with due Esteem and Regard, Sir, your most obedient humble Servant, Ste. Cullen. Paris, 16 March, 1771.

This Letter fully confirms the Remarks before made upon the Severity of Mr. Newton's Reflection in N°. XXXV. and shews to what a wretched State his Cause must have been reduced, when he had Recourse to so gross a Falsehood in Order to support it: No Man, who was not lost to all Sense of *Modesty*, could have insinuated so malicious a Charge: — The Accuser, therefore, is not expected to *blush* at the above Refutation; because it is a well-known Maxim in Morals, that

*Redire, cum peris, nescit pudor.*†

SENECA.

† When every Spark of Modesty is once extinguished, it is not an easy Matter to rekindle it.



F I N I S.